

REMARKS OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
ON CEDRIC FOSTER'S MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM PROGRAM,
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI. NOVEMBER 22, 1949.

The General purpose of Regional Education is to assist
"States and institutions and agencies concerned with higher education
in their efforts to advance knowledge and to improve the social and
economic level of the Southern region".

Regional action had been discussed for many years before
the Conference of Southern Governors in 1947 made an agreement to make
a joint effort to meet the common needs in higher education. The
governors signed a formal compact early in 1948 and agreed to submit it
to their respective legislatures. In September, 1948, a regional
administrative office was set up in Atlanta. The compact was soon
signed by the first ten states and appropriations were made for adminis-
trative expenses and for providing additional opportunities for Southern
students in the fields of medicine, dentistry, and ^{veterinary}~~veterinary~~ medicine.
As an illustrative example of how the plan works, my own state, of
South Carolina which has no dental school, made contracts through the
Board of Control with four dental schools to admit additional South
Carolina students who otherwise might have been excluded because of
limited facilities now available for dental study. The state thus
made provision for its citizens more immediately and less expensively
than by the establishment of a dental school. The students pay the

same fees as the residents of the state in which the dental schools are located. The schools receive for each student a subsidy of \$1,500.00 annually, all of which is to be expended in the improvement or expansion of the educational facilities of the cooperating professional school.

Although the twelve states now cooperating in this program have made, for the next biennium, appropriations of less than two million dollars in support of the cooperative regional program in higher education, they have secured more than this value through more effective use of existing institutions and the cooperative expansion of available facilities.

As it is my conviction that the program of the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education has great possibilities in accelerating the advance of the South, I supported the State legislation which made South Carolina the first state to ratify the compact and make appropriations for its implementation. Both white and Negro students in my state and other Southern states have been helped in the fields of medical, dental, and veterinary study. Research studies involving scores of scholars, business, and professional men are now being made as to methods of improving graduate and professional training in other fields and plans are being formulated to make a series of state studies to define the possibilities of social and economic development of each state

and the Southern region and to identify the types of trained leaders and research activities needed to achieve that development.

We in the South believe that we are learning to look at ourselves objectively, but we are conscious of our wealth of natural resources, and we are determined to utilize every possible skill in cooperatively fostering an economic and educational development which will make possible for all people of the Southern region commercial and cultural opportunities not surpassed elsewhere in our nation. And when I say all people I mean all people -- people of every race, color and creed.